

III. Amendments to the Claims

Kindly cancel Claims 1-16, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Kindly add new Claims 17-91, as follows:

AP

17. (New) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to
objects;
a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base,
each of the walls presenting an exterior surface and having a
receptacle defined within the exterior surface, each of the
opposing walls including a substantially horizontal upper
edge, and at least one of said opposing walls having two
notches provided in the substantially horizontal upper edge;
and
a single-piece support member having two inwardly-
turned ends, the single-piece support member extending beyond
the exterior surfaces of the opposing walls, and each of the
two inwardly-turned ends being pivotally mounted within the
receptacles.

18. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base.

19. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported on said base.

20. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

21. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second

support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

22. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the one of the at least two notches has a first depth, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches has a second depth, wherein the first depth is different than the second depth.

23. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

24. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 23, wherein each of the support member inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

25. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 24, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

26. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 25, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved kidney-shaped slot having a maximum vertical height larger than twice a diameter of the corresponding inwardly-turned end.

27. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 25, wherein each of the receptacles is substantially circular.

28. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the substantially horizontal upper edge includes a first upper edge portion having a first edge height above the base, and a second upper edge portion having a second edge height above the base, wherein the first and second edge heights are defined by the first and second upper edge portions, respectively.

29. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 28, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

30. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 29, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

31. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the one of the at least two notches has a first depth, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches has a second depth, wherein the first depth is different than the second depth.

32. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior surface of each of the walls.

33. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the support member includes a first inwardly-turned end and a second inwardly-turned end and, wherein each of the first inwardly-turned end and the second inwardly-turned end are disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior

surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

34. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 33, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

35. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 34, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved kidney-shaped slot having a maximum horizontal width larger than twice a diameter of the corresponding inwardly-turned end.

36. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 34, wherein each of the receptacles is substantially circular.

37. (New) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;
a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the walls presenting an exterior surface defining a receptacle comprising a downwardly-curved kidney-shaped slot having (i) a curved, concave-shaped top portion, and (ii) a bottom portion which has a middle section extending vertically above adjacent left and right side sections, at least one of the walls including:

an upper edge; and
at least two notches provided in the upper edge;
a support member pivotally mounted within the receptacle
of each of the walls to facilitate pivotal movement of the support
member relative to each of the walls;

wherein the support member is configured to rest within
each of the notches for effecting retention of the support member
at support member rest positions in the notches.


38. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 37, wherein
one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the
support member to facilitate support of a second identical
container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a
second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the
support member to facilitate support of the second identical
container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the
first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

39. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 38, wherein
one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain
the support member at a first support member height above the base,
and wherein the second one of the at least two notches is
configured to receive and retain the support member at a second

support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

40. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the one of the at least two notches has a first notch depth, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches has a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is different than the second notch depth.

41. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior's surface of each of the walls.

42. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 41, wherein the support member includes a single-piece, constant-diameter, C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends and, wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

43. (New) The container as claimed in Claim 42, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-

turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

44. (New) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects; a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the walls presenting an exterior surface defining a downwardly-curved, kidney-shaped receptacle having a maximum horizontal width between opposing edges of the receptacle, and at least one of the walls including:

an upper edge; and

at least two notches provided in the upper edge;

a support member pivotally mounted within the receptacle of each of the walls to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member relative to each of the walls, said support member having a diameter that is less than one half of the maximum horizontal width of said receptacle;

wherein the support member is configured to rest within each of the notches for effecting retention of the support member at support member rest positions in the notches.

45. (New) The container as claimed in claim 44, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of a second identical

container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive the support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

46. (New) The container as claimed in claim 45, wherein one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

47. (New) The container as claimed in claim 46, wherein the one of the at least two notches has a first notch depth, and wherein the second one of the at least two notches has a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is different than the second notch depth.

48. (New) The container as claimed in claim 47, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines the receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior surface of each of the walls.

49. (New) The container as claimed in claim 48, wherein said support member comprises a single-piece, constant-diameter, C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends, and wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

50. (New) The container as claimed in claim 49, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

51. (New) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the walls presenting an exterior surface and at least one of the walls including:

a first sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the first sidewall portion defining a first upper edge having a first notch and a second notch provided therein; and

a second sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the second sidewall portion defining a second upper edge and including a third notch provided therein;

wherein the first sidewall portion is disposed between the first notch and the second notch, wherein the second sidewall portion is disposed between the second notch and the third notch, wherein the first and second upper edges are disposed in substantially the same horizontal plane, and wherein the third notch has a notch depth which is greater than the notch depth of either the first notch or the second notch; and

a support member pivotally mounted to the exterior surface of each of the walls to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member relative to each of the walls;

wherein the support member is configured to register within each of the notches for effecting retention of the support member at support member rest positions in the notches.

52. (New) The container as claimed in claim 51, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

53. (New) The container as claimed in claim 52, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

54. (New) The container as claimed in claim 53, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

55. (New) The container as claimed in claim 54, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first

support member height is different than the second support member height.

56. (New) The container as claimed in claim 55, wherein the first and second notches have substantially the same notch depth.

57. (New) The retainer as claimed in claim 56, wherein the support member is configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support member is received and retained by either of the second and third notches.

58. (New) The container as claimed in claim 57, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior's surface of each of the walls.

59. (New) The container as claimed in claim 58, wherein the support member is C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

60. (New) The container as claimed in claim 59, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

61. (New) The container as claimed in claim 51, wherein an entire length of each of the first and second upper edges is substantially horizontal.

62. (New) The container as claimed in claim 61, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

63. (New) The container as claimed in claim 62, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

64. (New) The container as claimed in claim 63, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above

the base, and wherein a second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

65. (New) The container as claimed in claim 64, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

66. (New) The container as claimed in claim 65, wherein the first and second notches have substantially the same notch depth.

67. (New) The retainer as claimed in claim 66, wherein the support member is configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support member is received and retained by either of the second and third notches.

68. (New) The container as claimed in claim 67, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior's surface of each of the walls.

69. (New) The container as claimed in claim 68, wherein the support member is C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

70. (New) The container as claimed in claim 69, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

71. (New) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;
a first retainer means;
a second retainer means being spaced apart and opposing the first retainer means;
wherein each of the first and second retainer means projects above the base and has an exterior surface, and wherein at least one of the first and second retainer means includes:

a first sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the first sidewall portion defining a first upper edge disposed between a first notch and a second notch; and

a second sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the second sidewall portion defining a second upper edge disposed between the second notch and a third notch;

wherein the first upper edge is substantially coplanar with the second upper edge, and wherein the third notch has a greater notch depth than either of the first notch or the second notch;

a kidney-shaped opening disposed in the exterior surfaces of each of the lateral support means, each kidney-shaped opening having a concave-shaped upper portion and a convex-shaped lower portion, the convex-shaped lower portion having a middle section which extends vertically above adjacent left and right side sections;

a support member pivotally mounted in the kidney-shaped openings disposed in the exterior surfaces of the lateral support means to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member relative to each of the lateral support means; and

wherein the support member is configured to register within each of the notches for effecting retention of the support

member at support member rest positions in the first and second notches.

72. (New) The container as claimed in claim 71, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

73. (New) The container as claimed in claim 72, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

74. (New) The container as claimed in claim 73, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

75. (New) The container as claimed in claim 74, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

76. (New) The container as claimed in claim 75, wherein the first and second notches have substantially the same notch depth.

77. (New) The retainer as claimed in claim 76, wherein the support member is configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support member is received and retained by either of the second and third notches.

78. (New) The container as claimed in claim 77, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior's surface of each of the walls.

79. (New) The container as claimed in claim 78, wherein the support member is C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

80. (New) The container as claimed in claim 79, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

81. (New) The container as claimed in claim 71, wherein each of the first and second upper edges is substantially horizontal.

82. (New) The container as claimed in claim 81, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

83. (New) The container as claimed in claim 82, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

84. (New) The container as claimed in claim 83, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein a second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

85. (New) The container as claimed in claim 84, wherein one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second one of the second and third notches is configured to receive and retain the support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

86. (New) The container as claimed in claim 85, wherein the one of the first and second notches have substantially the same notch depth.

87. (New) The retainer as claimed in claim 86, wherein the support member is configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support member is received and retained by either of the second and third notches.

88. (New) The container as claimed in claim 87, wherein the exterior surface of each of the walls defines two receptacles for respectively effecting pivotal mounting of two support members.

89. (New) The container as claimed in claim 88, wherein each support member comprises a C-shaped bar with two inwardly turned ends.

90. (New) The container as claimed in claim 89, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

91. (New) The container as claimed in claim 90, wherein each of the first and second upper edges is substantially horizontal.